

Belgian Cupcakes Magazine

Nr 6. May - June 2012

INTERVIEWS:

Emilie Autumn

BLOOD

HITT

Strange Artifact

Event &

music

reviews

Casual

Lolita



EXTRAORDINARY LOLITAS:

SALTJE

MANON WEBER

How to bake a cake in a mug in your microwave and much, much, more!

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On the cover: Babs

Cover photography: Hilde Heyvaert

Artwork: free clip-art, Hilde Heyvaert, Anso Vermeylen, Manon Weber

Photography: Emilie Autumn, Babs Barning, BLOOD, Innocent Coppieters, Vief Cornelissen, Hilde Heyvaert, Toshio Iwashita, L'Arc~en~Ciel, Dan Orlowitz, Rittor Music, Saltje, Saltje's mum, Tania Tanzil, Bert Van den Wyngaert, Talisa van Hurck, Talisa's mum, Claire Van Laere, Lora-Elly Vannieuwenhuysen, Manon Weber, YELLOW FRIED CHICKENZ

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Special thanks to: Esther Huang, Trinh Nguyen, Dan Orlowitz, Marcus Rauchfuss

An introduction to this issue...

Welcome to the new and improved (well we think it's improved at least!) Belgian Cupcakes Magazine. Volume 6 already, it seems

like yesterday when I sat around behind my computer and thought: hey let's make a forum magazine for the Belgian Cupcakes! In reality that was last year, which kind of makes this our 1 year anniversary edition.

Where we originally started as a Flemish language magazine for and by the members of the Belgian Cupcakes we have evolved from that to a fully English language lolita fashion magazine and now into a free online J-culture one. Sure our fashion focus is still on lolita BUT we now have interviews with Japanese musicians (BLOOD , HITT and Strange Artifact) as well as an artist that a lot of followers of the fashion like (Emilie Autumn).

and a new section called J-music corner, where you'll find reviews of singles, albums & concert DVDs by Japanese artists and bands.



Your neighbourhood friendly chief editor, Hilde



Aside from that we have interviews with extraordinary lolitas, event reviews, photo reports of the Belgian Cupcakes meet-ups from the past two months and much, much, more.

If you ever wondered how to bake a cake in a mug by using your microwave, we've even got that covered.

As always: if you want to submit, have a remark (other than the spelling, we're all only human, mistakes have their ways to sneak in, we try to keep them out, honest!) or an idea, you can reach me at hildekitten at gmail dot com

We're especially still looking for J-music (and movie) reviewers by the way!

Style Spotlight: Casual Lolita

We all, quite obviously, love or like the lolita fashion style. But be that as it may, we all know that it's not always practical, or suitable to wear. There are plenty of occasions where you just can't get away with a full lolita outfit, and that's where the casual style comes in mighty handy.



I know there is a lot of debate about whether or not casual is a separate style of lolita or not but that's not something I'm going to address here. I'm just going to assume, for the sake of this article, that it is a style in itself.

Don't be mistaken by the term casual, as this is not a style that is easy to accomplish, it really is quite a bit harder than it seems. Truth to the matter is that some brands, such as *Innocent World* or *Emily Temple Cute*, will lend themselves towards casual styles easier than say *Angelic Pretty* as their dresses tend to be (slightly) less over the top, but in reality you could start from any brand, off-brand or handmade main piece for a good casual outfit.

It's a common misconception that there aren't (so many) strict rules when it comes to casual. It is still a lolita style, so it must abide by the same regulations as the other styles. You don't need a wig, obviously, or enormous hair pieces (be it bows, flowers, whatever normally rocks your boat). You can still use hair accessories obviously, but less is definitely more here and natural hair is preferred. A petticoat is also something you'll want to have, even though it doesn't have to be quite as poofy as what is generally seen as a-ok in other styles. So if your bum doesn't look like it's become a mushroom or a cupcake, you're fine really.

Skirts especially are good for casual, because they're easily paired with a cute t-shirt, but JSKS and one pieces work equally well. There are plenty of cute blouses you can get off-brand to combine in your outfit after all. Cardigans are always a bo-

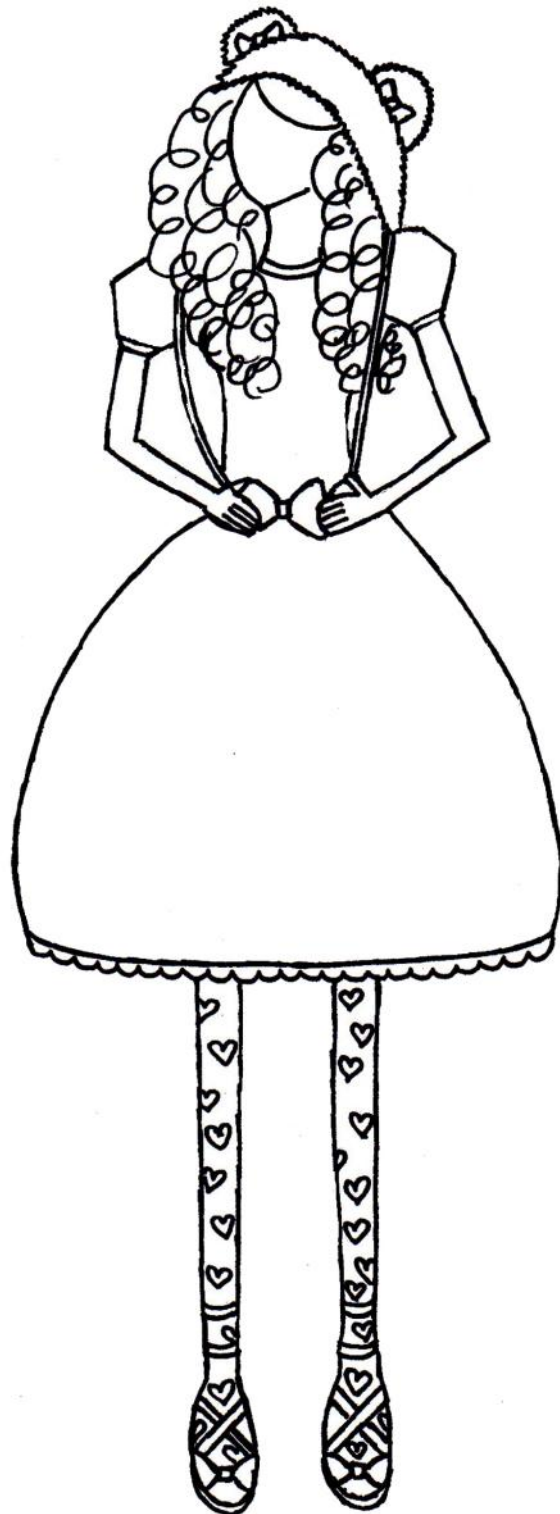
nus too when the weather gets a little chilly and of course when the need for a coat arises you are not bound by the strict rules for coats that apply to normal lolita styles.

Footwear is also less restrictive, I know that in sweet lolita styles certain types of sneakers are acceptable but with casual no one will frown upon you at all if you choose to wear something that generally wouldn't fly with full lolita styles, as long as you keep it within reason of course. Use your common sense when choosing your shoes for the day and you should be fine. Of course you can wear your lolita shoes with your casual outfit, there's no rule against it, and there are plenty of cute socks you can wear such as those with an adorable print you can find in pretty much every off-brand store.

Basically yes, this is a toned down version of whichever full lolita style you wish to wear (anything can be made casual, literally anything), yes the same rules as lolita apply, so if you keep those in mind and combine the traditional basic pieces of the fashion in a far more toned down and in a way suitable for daily wear and pretty much all occasions you know your coordinate is a success.



Casual Lolita colouring page



Event report: IRRASHAI 2

Event: Irrashai 2
Organisation: Nippon Zasshi
When: Saturday, March 3
Where: Cultureel Centrum, Berchem, Belgium
What: Japanese movie event with a quiz and cosplay competition
Ticket price: € 5
Website:
<http://www.nipponzasshi.be/irasshai>

To start I had a lot of fun. The event was in a good location and easy to find after a long, nice walk from the train-station. We got a nice welcome at the ticket stand. There was a little delay for the movie but nothing much

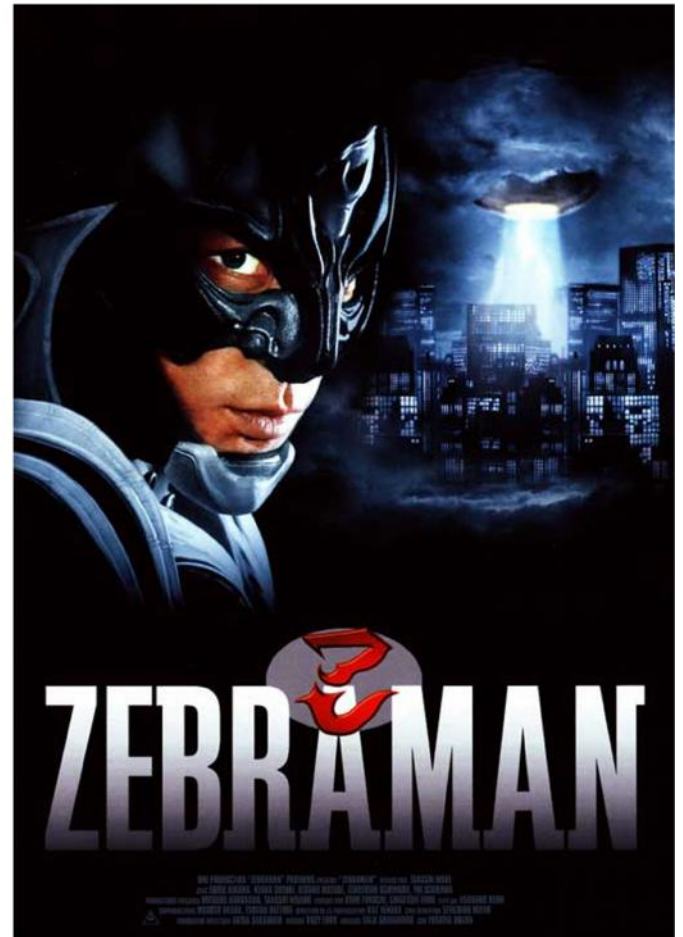
The first movie was, as always, different but in a good way. I liked the "The Girl who Leapt through Time" (Toki o kakeru shôjo) a lot. It involved romance, humour and time traveling. I think a lot of people liked it and would recommend the movie too.



Then there was a short break where you could get a drink and some crackers when the people from the cosplay contest prepared for their performance and the little game quiz.

The quiz was quite amusing to see because of the method that they used. Instead of a buzzer it was an old Pikachu that the participants had to grab.

The second movie wasn't my cup of tea. It was called "Zebroman". It was funny but the story was a bit blurry and weird. Due to the delay this movie ended a bit later than expected but no one minded.



It was a fun event and I would recommend it to everyone who likes seeing a good movie with a bunch of friends.



Meet snap: March

FANDOM MEET



And because not all the awesome fit on
one page there's two!



Standing: Liesa, Lise, Josine, Talisa, Camille, Margot, Claire, Caroline & Lora.
Sitting: Annso, Hilde and Babs.
Photo by Saltje.

Event report: ~~MADE~~ IN ASIA 4

Event: Made in Asia, 4th edition

Organisation: Conceptum! with
TheLittleBigCompany

When: Friday, March 30 - Sunday
April 1 2012

Where: Brussels Expo, Wetteren, Belgium

What: convention with an Asian focus

Ticket price: varies depending on the
type of ticket, starting € 8,50.

The Friday evening opening night is free.

Website: www.madeinasia.be



Made in Asia is one of those Belgian conventions that, thankfully, keeps improving year by year. What started as a small Asia themed convention at Brussels Expo has grown into a far larger one with room for as many things involving Asian culture as possible. Of course, there is a lot of geekery going on such as the cosplay and gaming areas, there's the typical merchandise, the J-fashion styles: Lolita being the overwhelming presence, Visual-kei and Decora following to a lesser extent.

There's also room for plenty of traditional things such as martial arts demonstrations, taiko drumming and various workshops. The only thing that keeps not lacking is the availability of food and drinks, it's just spread too thin for a convention of this size and queues build up to quite horrible proportions. Thankfully people are allowed to bring their own. Also, and this is a definite plus compared to several other cons,

there's _clean_ (and free to use) toilets and plenty of them spread throughout the venue. They also get awesome guests and their stage acoustic for gigs is amazing. The only real downside is that they didn't hand stamp people on the Saturday, making it impossible to leave the venue and come back in at a later time. On the Sunday they used coloured dots on hands, but that wasn't the best indicator either. So hopefully handstamping will be properly introduced next year. Different stamps for different days would be a good solution (or different shades of ink or bracelets).

On a Belgian Cupcakes Lolita Community note: Anso was present there with a stand (just like last year) where she sold her awesome artwork and accessories. More about that in the small interview with her about the con in this issue! Needless to say it was awesome to have someone of the community present there, and not just because she was kind enough to let us store our stuff with her, but because it was heaps of fun to just all congregate there and hang out. So thank you Anso, you're a star!





I have attended MiA three years in a row now and I've literally seen it grow and improve. It seems to me that the organisation really goes over the points that should be improved upon and then actually goes ahead and does that, which is no doubt part of the convention's success. They also make it varied enough for people who attend several days not to get bored by making sure that events are evenly spread out over the duration of the convention. I attended it for two days (Saturday and Sunday) for the first time, and whilst that was pretty exhausting, I didn't feel bored the second day at all. Whereas I know for a fact that if I were to attend other conventions two days in a row I'd be bored out of my skull the second day, so this is a definite plus to MiA.

There is also plenty of room to go sit aside in the quiet if guests want to get a bit of breathing space from the buzz of the main body of the convention. The only downside is that it's far chillier in those areas but that's easily solved by having something warm to wear in your bag.

Just like last year there was a purikura machine, but it was ridiculously expensive (€ 12 and you get limited time) and the print quality wasn't as good as last year. I would recommend going to the purikura in Mechelen (geprint.be for more information to the fans of this kind of photobooth).

All in all MiA4 was a fabulous con, laid back, friendly, open minded and welcoming convention. If you have the chance to go when this convention is on next year, I would definitely recommend going. **The next edition will take place March 8 to 10 2013 in Palace 5 of Brussels Expo.** I will definitely make sure to attend again (although for how many days remains to be seen, that'll depend on the program).

Review by Hilde Heyvaert.
Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert (Saturday group shot).



Interview with BLOOD

Japanese Goth band BLOOD has been around from 2002 and has literally toured the world. After several switches in membership and a short hiatus starting in 2009, the band re-established with several new members and the release of two new singles (*Bathory* and *Elizabeth*) last year and they've now kicked off their European tour in Belgium at MiA4. We were lucky enough to be able to speak to them about their future plans, touring and of course their music.



If you had to describe your music in 5 words, what would those be?

Kiwamu: **Gothic, Industrial, dark, rock and red.**

You're a Goth band, so naturally your music and looks are quite dark. Do you also find inspiration in lighter, more joyful and happy things?

Kiwamu: When I write our music and the lyrics I write it to be dark music, so I think in those terms. I only use dark things as inspiration for our music. I don't think I am inspired by other bands when I think about the melody and the arrangements.

What do you like best about performing at a convention?

Kiwamu: Playing at a convention is often easy and a lot of fans come to see our shows there. The venues are also often very nice, with very good sound and acoustic. I've played at 70 or 80 conventions in total, also in the US amongst other places. I think this convention, Made in Asia, is a very good one.

You've performed all across the globe, even in Australia, which country did really stand out?

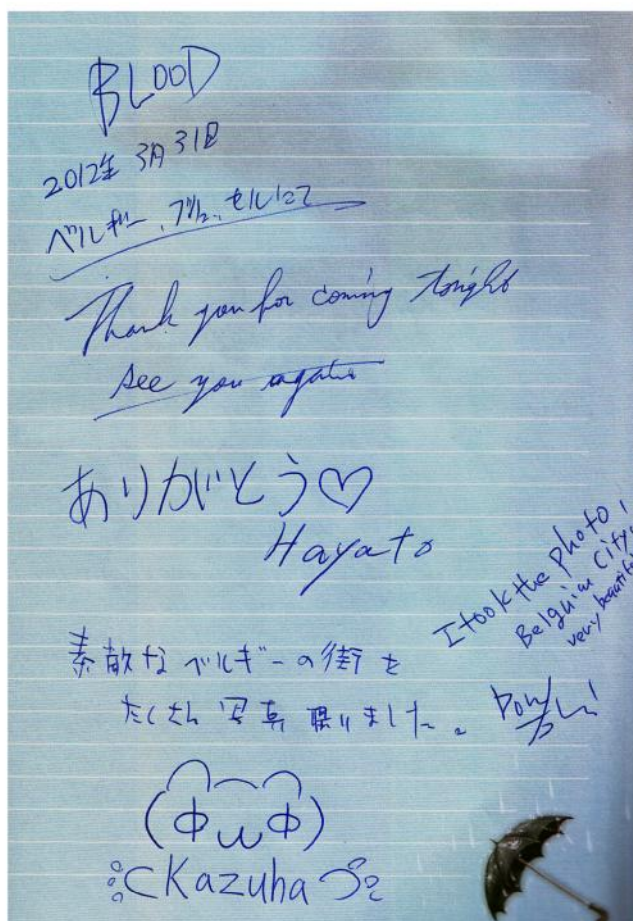
Kiwamu: *laughs* I should say Belgium. All countries have their good points, so does every city in each country I've visited. I like all of them. I really like performing abroad, outside of Japan.

Where would you love to go return for another gig?

Kiwamu: I would really like to go back to the USA and Mexico because I have really good friends there. They helped BLOOD 8 years ago, and to me they are like brothers and sisters. So I always want to go back there.

Jill of Rose Noire has played a part in your music video for *Elizabeth*, are there any plans for a musical collaboration with her band?

Kiwamu: No it was just a one off. I had the idea to work together for just this once because it was a good way to promote both BLOOD and Rose Noire at the same time. She was also just right for that part in the video.



Which other musicians would you like to work with in the future?

Kiwamu: As long as they are good people, I am always willing to help out if possible. We don't have any concrete plans or wishes to work with specific artists in the future though.

Are there plans to release a new CD soon?

Kiwamu: *chuckles* first the tour and then we'll see. I hope to release an album with the new members, maybe next year.

Are you going to tour in the US and Mexico after this European tour?

Kiwamu: I'd certainly like that, but for Mexico it's difficult right now as K-pop is currently very popular there. I think that maybe that scene will pass soon, and perhaps we can go there again then.

For several of the band members this is your first European tour, how do you feel about being in Europe? Are you excited to see all these new countries and places?

Hayato: Yes! Very much so!
We're very excited!

Which countries are you looking forward to visiting most?

Kiwamu: Especially the countries I've not visited before such as Belgium, the Czech Republic, Switzerland and Russia.

BLOOD is:

Hayato: vocals

Kiwamu: lead guitar and
synthesisers

Kazuha:
rhythm guitar

Azami: bass

Dora: drums

Official site:

http://www.starwaverecords.jp/blood_e/

Left to right: Dora, Hayato, Kiwamu and Kazuha at MiA4.

Photos by BLOOD and Hilde Heyvaert.
Interview by Hilde Heyvaert and Agnes Van De Genachte (interview double).



INTERVIEW WITH HITT

Japanese artist HITT has once again graced Belgium with his presence and performance at MiA, performing his distinctive blend of Piano Rock for an enthusiastic audience. We sat down with him before the gig to talk about his music and what exactly he likes best about Belgium.



If you had to describe your music in just 5 words, what would those be?

Really? In only 5 words? I don't get any extra? I really can't manage that*laughs*! My music is really too diverse for words, and I don't really feel like I can stick any one genre to it as it's not bound to any particular one, it's not just Rock, or Punk, or something else, but rather many different things. I don't really want to stick a genre to it either. My fans, the *HITTERS* get it and appreciate my music and myself for what it is and what I am, that makes me really happy. They're as diverse as the music, for starters their ages ranging from teenagers to people in their fifties.

You play a distinctive blend of rock and jazz, who are your greatest inspirations in both genres?

I don't really listen to others for inspiration to be honest. I get most inspired from life itself for my music. From meetings with people, being in love, feelings I have, expressions and encounters. All those experiences are what inspire me when I write lyrics and melodies.

What made you go "this is it! I want to be a musician!"?

I knew it when I was just 6 years old. I saw a Chinese boy band called *Karugengi* on TV. They were roller skating, dancing and singing and I wanted to do the same thing. I really wanted to be on TV too and thought they were so cool. I bought rollerblades and tried to imitate them. Of course it's hard when you're a kid, you still have to practice your singing and your voice of course.

How does playing at a convention compare to playing a regular gig?

I don't distinguish amongst them, my singing and performing happens in the exact same way. Of course there are a lot of people that don't know my music at conventions, so I hope to make some new fans here. I'm really looking forward to that, as well as seeing the *HITTERS* that come see me.

You've been to Belgium several times before. What do you like best about the country?

I really love the beer, the chocolate and of course the French fries, those I love the most! The Belgian fries are the best in the world. Those are different everywhere, so it's always a surprise when eating those.



Annsó after MiA

Just like last year Annsó had a Belgian Cupcakes stand at Made in Asia where she not only produced her wonderful portrait art on commission, but also sold cute accessories and actively promoted Lolita fashion. In the aftermath of MiA we caught up with her to ask her about her impressions of the past edition as someone selling at the convention.



How would you say this edition of MiA compares to last year's from a vendor's point of view?

Well first of all, I was very lucky to have an own booth at the "young designers" section. Artists were mainly grouped into a corner that wasn't clearly visible for the public. Also, there was a big shortage of chairs and tables, especially chairs. I had to be satisfied with only one chair this year, but aside all that, I think it was a pretty good edition of MiA. Funny thing is, that last year Saturday was the most busy day, with the most people. So I was very surprised and even a little disappointed that this year it was so calm for me on the first full day. But then Sunday was crazy and I got a lot of drawing to do. So I think this year was about equally good, only the organisation itself has to pull themselves together a little bit, because it was very chaotic.

What are the best and the worst things about selling at MiA?

Best thing is meeting interesting people. It makes me so happy when I get a compliment on my work or when people like it, makes all the hard work and stress worthwhile. Also, the experience I'm getting from it. I learn a lot of things out of it, what creations people like, or what sells badly. Good to know for other conventions or future works. **Worst thing** is probably the fact I had to get up very early to get there in time every day and to drag all my stuff along alone. Luckily, I have some great friends who helped me out here and there, which I'm very grateful for!

Do you think the convention is improving? What, according to you, definitely needs to be improved upon at MiA?

Well, I guess it's improving for the visitors. It got bigger and had a wide range of different activities like games, fashion, cosplay, anime, Japanese culture etc. More than any other convention in Belgium, I

think. But for my point of view it didn't, since it was organised worse than last year. I knew very late where I had to be, where my table was, how I had to pay etc. Shortage on the chairs and tables like I mentioned before. I heard a lot of complaints from other vendor's as well. So I guess they just have to improve their organisation and planning.

You actively promoted Lolita at your stand, was there a lot of interest in it?

Well yes of course, people are very curious what it's all about. But I did notice it's getting more and more popular, so quite some people already knew the basic stuff. It's always fun to see a lot of interest towards the fashion. A lot of people also asked me if they could buy those clothes from me, but sadly, I always had to give them a negative answer. My Lolita closet is very dear to me, haha.

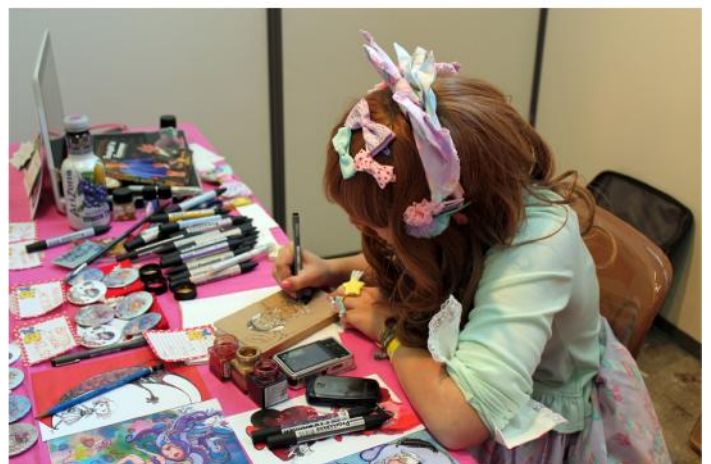
What's the most memorable moment from this year's MiA?

I think it was the two little girls who attended MiA with their dad I got to draw. Two sisters, a 5 year old and a 7 year old. They were super adorable and it made me so happy when they liked their portraits I had made for them.



Would you sell at MiA again next year? Or will you attend as a regular convention goer?

It depends on the prices and location for the artists, but I probably will sell again yes.



Event Report: Elf Fantasy Fair

Event: Elf Fantasy Fair Haarzuilens,
Gods and Pharaohs

Organisation: Elf Fantasy Fair

When: Saturday, April 21 - Sunday April 22

What: Fantasy event meets geek convention meets
Renaissance faire

Where: the grounds of Castle the Haar, Haarzuilens,
the Netherlands

Ticket price: varied, between €12,50 and €25,50
getting them pre-sale is advised

Website: <http://haarzuilens.elffantasyfair.com>

On 21 and 22 April the first Elf Fantasy Fair of the year was held at Castle the Haar in Haarzuilens, the Netherlands. The Elf Fantasy Fair, or EFF, is an event that focuses on a few different aspects of fantasy, like fairytales, sci-fi and steampunk. Most of the visitors wear costumes to fit in the fantasy world.



I visited the EFF on Saturday only and of course, I dressed up too. This time I went as Anastasia, one of Cinderella's stepsisters, and my cousin Kyra was Drizella, the other stepsister.

The day started early in the morning, because we had to prepare ourselves, like putting on make-up and getting dressed in a lot of layers of clothing for our costume. Outside it was rainy and cold, so those extra layers were really necessary since we

would be outside all day. We arrived around noon at the fair and we headed directly towards the main stage, because we were participating in the costume competition, which is called the *Personathlon*. We had to be present half an hour prior to the start of the competition, because we had to get lined up in order of numbers we were given. Unfortunately, it started to rain when we were waiting for the competition to start and there was no place to get out of the rain, which resulted in everyone getting wet. When it finally started, the sun started shining again. I really enjoyed participating in the Personathlon, especially because there were professional judges and they were really nice. After the competition we had an hour before the prize ceremony, so we've got ourselves something to eat and wandered around the terrain for a while. Then it was time to go back for the prize ceremony and we started to feel a bit nervous. In the end we didn't win anything, but I'm still glad that I joined the competition and I'm certainly trying again with a new costume at the EFF Arcen in September!

In the neighborhood of the main stage, we found the most amazing food stand ever: it had pastries, candy and delicious tea. I tried the Blueberry Cheesecake and it tasted amazing! Afterwards, we walked around the castle some more. We took some pictures, got our pictures taken by photographers and we saw some amazing costumes from the other visitors.

We stayed a few more hours until it was getting colder and darker outside, then it was time to go home again. It was a good thing we were leaving, because it started to rain again as soon as we left. Although, I did enjoy myself during my day at the EFF, there are a few cons. There was not enough shelter for the bad weather, even though it was pretty clear that the weather wouldn't be that great that weekend. Also, I didn't see much Egyptian theming, even though the theme was all about Egypt. But of course, there were also a lot of good things. I had a great time, the staff was nice, there were a lot of great costumes and the food was great! I'll be back at EFF Arcen in September!



Review by Talisa Van Hurck, photos by Talisa Van Hurck and Talisa's mum.



APRIL MEET LOUYAIN

APRIL 22
EARTH DAY

*photos by
Babs Barning, Hilde Heyvaert
and a friendly lady passing
by in the park :)*



Left to right: Hilde, Lora, Malou and Babs

Lolita extraordinaire: interview with Manon Weber

Manon is the Australian creative mastermind behind the fun and quirky indi Lolita and Otome-kei brand *Marguerite in Strawberry Skies* (commonly known as *Strawberry Skies*). Her fun and often out-of-the-box prints have made the label loved amongst Lolitas all across the globe.

What motivated you to start your own lolita brand, *Strawberry Skies*?

I really love sewing and turning my ideas into reality. After showing people a few of the things I'd made for myself and receiving good feedback, I decided to start taking commissions and things grew from there! Since then, my motivation has come from all of the amazing support I have gotten from friends, customers and fans. I really appreciate everyone's support for *Strawberry Skies*, it keeps me going!

How would you summarize your brand in 5 words?

Lovely, magical, strawberry, princess fashion!

Do you have any advice for people wanting to start their own brand?

Take inspiration from everywhere, keep on top of the latest trends and always carry a sketch book!

What are the best and the worst things about being an independent designer?

I think the best thing is the personal connection I can have with the customers. I really love chatting to the girls who order from me and building relationships with them. I think I'll be a bit sad if I ever lose that. I also love getting their feedback! ♥

The worst thing is probably not being able to order large runs of things. Sometimes I'll have a great idea but it will be shot down when I can't find a supplier to do a short run. That's really disappointing.

What direction would you like to take with *Strawberry Skies*? Where do you hope to be in the future?

Once I have finished my university studies, I would really love to keep designing and build *Strawberry Skies* into a larger business. I think it would be great to have other creative minds onboard to be part of a larger design and manufacturing team. I would also love to collaborate with other designers and artists. In addition to *Strawberry Skies*, I am also helping run a Japanese fashion import business called *Electric Alice*, so I would like to keep going with that in the future too.



Left: detail of the *Nebula* series JSK.



Right: detail of the *Cherry Blossom* series JSK.

What or who inspires you the most both as a lolita and as a designer?

My inspirations come from all over the place honestly. From music, art, other designers and sometimes totally out of the blue! As a designer, I think my biggest inspirations are Sebastian Masuda from 6%dokidoki, Issey Miyake, Sayuri Tavuchi from Spank! and the amazing designers at MILK. When it comes to designers, I can either get inspiration from their style or their philosophy, but I think a good philosophy is really important. I am also really inspired by Ai Yazawa's *Paradise Kiss*, if ever I'm feeling down on myself, watching or reading *Paradise Kiss* can cheer me up.

As a lolita, I get a lot of inspiration from Misako Aoki. I think she is the perfect lolita, very modest and cute.

You predominantly wear sweet lolita, what attracts you the most in that style?

I'm not sure what it is, but I am very attracted to things that are cute and girly. I love dressing up because it feels like you can be whoever you want to be and I think that's really important because everyone should be the person they want to be. I think that lolita is magical and gives you a bubble of protection from the outside world and things that are worrying you. Everyone should do what makes them happy and sweet lolita makes me happy.

How would you describe your local lolita scene in Australia? Is it a popular J-fashion style Down Under?

The lolita scene here is really great! I love all of my local lolitas and our area has about 70 members on our facebook group, so I'd say it's pretty popular! We have really regular meets and everyone gets along really well. I'm really glad I have been able to meet so many wonderful girls.

How do the locals generally react to people wearing lolita out and about?

We get the odd cat call or taunt here, but mostly the locals don't pay us much notice. A lot of people will come up and ask questions or say that we look nice, I think mostly people are just curious!

If you could make one wish concerning the Lolita community come true, what would it be?

I'd want every lolita to have their dream dress! ♥



Official website:
<http://www.m-strawberryskies.com>

Electric Alice:
<http://electricalice.bigcartel.com>

Manon's Tumblr:
<http://strawberryskies.tumblr.com>



Manon in one of her own creations of her *Cherry Blossom* line. All photos in this interview are kindly provided by her.



Cupcake Focus: Saltje

LOLITA ID



Name: Saltje

Forum nick: blackrose

Age: 29

Styles: Casual, Gothic and

Kuro Lolita

Favourite brands: Alice and the Pirates and Putumayo

Lolita since: 2005

Saltje is one of the members of the Belgian community that is nearly always present at meets and known for her own take on Lolita fashion. High time we get to know her a bit better!

You're a modern art painter, how does being lolita/into J-culture influence your work?

As an artist the influence is indirect! My works are mixes of many different cultures. I think the colours and the hardness of the colors, the sexuality and the fast image-culture of Japan influence me most. I love the hard colours Japanese and Chinese people put together in a perfect balance. I think they are the only people in the world that grasp the game of colours and balance the best!

What do you think the lolita community would benefit from most?

More tolerance. I think lolita's all over the world should stop being so hard on each other. There is this huge competition going on at moments that really turns my stomach! I don't understand why there has to be this special snowflake that leads all the rest. Why is it that when a new girl is still looking for her own style she has to be bashed on a secret? Why is it that when you are bigger a lot of lolita's think you shouldn't be allowed to wear lolita? I know we can not like everyone and not everyone's style will be your own, but we are all into that same thing, Japanese clothing... black, pink or red... it really doesn't matter! It is a huge task to get accepted by the world around us, it would be so much easier if we could accept one another and set an

example for the narrative world around us. I'm very happy the Belgian Lolita Cupcakes are so warm and loving and we stick up for each other.

You're known for putting your own stamp on lolita, how would you describe your own style?

I would describe it as obstinate, stubborn, black, artistic, rule-breaking. I love bows but only in my hair, I love to just put my hair in a simple tail or run free! I love the rules, I love the poof, I love all the little extra things that make the outfit special and stand out! I don't like the idea of looking like a doll and I don't like it when I look like someone else. I think my style reflects who I am most. I feel sometimes that my style is too different to be a real lolita, but analysing it, I don't see why I shouldn't be or feel like a real lolita. I don't feel the need to belong in a particular group, I just want to do and act as how I feel best fitting to my lifestyle, interest and mood! And if that means I'm not really a categorized lolita, then I'll be the one that doesn't fit in the box.

How would you say lolita has changed your life?

It changed my self-image a lot. Wearing lolita made me aware of things but also, it gave me the confidence to be who I am, not what people wanted me to be. I've always been a little rebel with clothes, but I've never dared myself to go all the way. I was only ready for that step the last few years. The years I stood up for myself and started to take control over my own life.

Do you have an ultimate dream item? If yes, what is it?

I don't really have an ultimate dream item but if I had to pick one, I think it would be *Lief's Sacred Night*. I know it is an item I'll own one day and, for the strange change, I want it in white... it is super pretty. All things they made are.

Which style would you still love to try?

Punk Lolita. I really don't need to think about this question. It is just a fact!

Who are your inspirations when it comes to your own lolita style?

This is a hard question. I'm not one for adoring people. I'm a huge fan of *Lady Gaga*, not only for the music but for what she stands for and that is just being who you want to be and not feeling ashamed for this I love this message. So I just try to be myself as much as I can.

There is also *Yayoi Kusama*, a Japanese artist that wears her own style and polkadot clothes. ;Not really lolita but it is just all the way her, and that is what I try to find. Clothes that are all the way me. Clothes that yell 'Saltje'. I don't really know that many people that have these kinds of clothes!

I do look a lot around on Tumblr and the EGL community on livejournal at what other girls do and there really are many lolita's that make super coöds and that is where I draw my inspiration from. I don't look at one person in particular. I look a lot at fairy kei, sweet, punk, goth and kuro lolita's. Some girls can really make these super cool and original outfits!



Exhibit report: Dick Bruna

What: Expo Dick Bruna

Where: Cultuurcentrum Mechelen,
Mechelen, Belgium

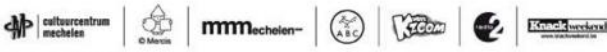
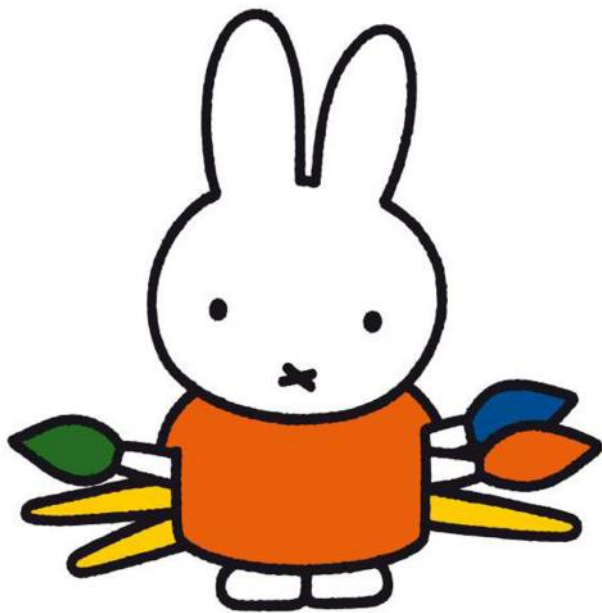
Date: February 18 - June 3 2012

Ticket price: varied €3 to €9

Website: www.cultuurcentrummechelen.be



Expo
Dick Bruna
cultuurcentrum mechelen
18/02-3/06/2012



We all know *Dick Bruna* from the 'Miffy' books we all read as kids and that's why I really wanted to see this exposition. I searched the forum for some volunteers to join me and soon found Babs and Matthew willing and able to join me on my trip to nostalgia.

We arrived in Mechelen around noon, the exposition was beyond the shopping street, which gave us a chance to do some window shopping. After a half hour walk we arrived at the Cultural Centre where we bought our ticket and stuffed our belongings in a tiny locker. The expo itself was actually quite small. There was a separate room with all Bruna's early work, mostly book and magazine covers. And some nice articles about Miffy, neatly plasticized. There was this one funny postcard with a drawing of Miffy as a carcass on a table which read 'Miffy isn't having a nice Christmas, we are, because Miffy has just been roasting in the oven for two hours.'

Then there were three more rooms that were actually more child oriented. Which doesn't mean it wasn't fun. When you entered the room, you immediately saw a big yellow-white circus tent, behind it there was a little puppetry corner where we goofed around with some of the masks and with the puppets of course. It was all very nostalgic. There was also a small corner where you could play with decor pieces from the books.

In the last room there were three crafting corners, that were of course surrounded by children and on the right side when you entered there were three showcases which showed Miffy in Japan, Africa and on an airplane. Of course you could all have guessed we stood still at the one where Miffy was in Japan. She was sitting in a traditional Japanese house, eating rice, and what we think is lettuce, with some foreigners. It looked very realistic, even the rice looked like it was still wet.

After gazing at this nice little decor we took a seat at one of the crafting tables. There was one for working with fabric, one for drawing and one to make a Miffy-mask (which looked kind of creepy if you ask me). We were sitting at the one for drawing because there were less children there and looked at what was lying on the table. There were a few drawings printed from a computer which you had to finish yourself. We decided to make some lolita Miffys, because why not, right? Of course the children were all staring at us 'Oh look at those grown-ups colouring the drawings', which was kind of funny. You can imagine the parents started to look at us in strange ways, so after a while we took off.

The expo's exit was, very strategically, behind the souvenir shop. They had some nice stuff, Miffy statues, key chains, some really nice postcards,... But we didn't buy anything because, unfortunately everything was a bit too expensive. We did, however, take some pictures with one of those boards you have to stick your head through. The result was a great souvenir which didn't cost us anything.

We pursued our day with noodles and some real shopping! We couldn't resist going to *The Box* and the candy shop next to it and found some really good jellybeans. After a day well spent we split up and went home again. The jellybeans however, didn't survive the day, my boyfriend got a hold of them and they were devoured within the hour.



Review and photography by Claire Van Laere.

INTERVIEW WITH EMILIE AUTUMN

Carnivals, fashion sense and lazy days

On a rainy afternoon Annso and I met to interview the one and only Emilie Autumn. Excited as we were we arrived at the venue thirty minutes early and had to wait outside. The big, black tour bus was parked in front of the VK and roadies were running up and down with fences, props and other stage equipment. The interview itself took place at the bar of the VK, where we were asked to wait. The doors were wide open and we could easily sneak a peak at the stage. After a while we noticed a blonde lady with a sparkly pink scarf walking around and then coming our way. Could it be? Yes! It was Emilie Autumn! She walked through the door with a big smile 'Are you the Cupcake girls?'. After introducing ourselves briefly I handed her the Leonidas chocolates we brought for her. She was so happy, she started stroking the package, from that moment on we couldn't say or do anything wrong in her opinion. We sat down while she complimented our dresses (we dressed for the occasion) and blushing like an overripe tomato I took out the questions.



You always put so much effort into your outfits, so I wonder, is fashion important to you and what is your look on fashion?

Yes, fashion is really important to me. Of course like most girls I'm attracted to pretty things and in the theatre – where I grew up – costumes are very important, theatrical things are important. But to me it's important to make it your own and to express yourself even with small details. I think we are our own canvasses on which you can show yourself and I love to play with this. And then sometimes people look at you funny, but that's a good thing. Of course the outfits are an important part of my shows as well, they complete the image. It always makes me proud to see people in the audience who have made their own clothes or wear special outfits.

Is it important to you to inspire your fans?

I've never really thought about that. It's not really intentional, it just happens. But I do admire them for trying to stand out and being individuals.

About "The Devil's Carnival", the movie you're starring in, how did you experience making that movie, did you enjoy it?

Her face brightens up as I pose the question, she takes a deep breath before explaining. Yes, beyond anything else. I have been texting with Terrance (Zdunich, also known from "Repo, the genetic opera") to discuss our co-operation, I really want to do more work together. He just called and asked if I wanted to play a part in After I said yes I discovered I was the first one to confirm. I really liked the aspect of a theatre in the movie and I felt really comfortable during the production, I think I've made friends for life there. It was also very nice to have my girls around me. I played this bizarre character that used some violence and I had a lot of fun playing her. Doing the movie was a meaningful experience to me, because now I realize that this is exactly what I want to do. You know, actually this movie is the first episode of a series of films on The Devil's Carnival. It's funny how we said we were going to do this as friends and the movie blew up to something big. At the moment I'm not interested in other movies because this really suits me, it's about accepting yourself and of course there's the whole asylum theme. I think the next two years I'll be working on The Devil's Carnival.

You have such a busy schedule with the tour and then there's the new cd and the movie, but what is a lazy day to you?

I don't know, I haven't had one of those in a while. If I'd have a day to myself I think I'd want to be alone and curl up with my rats by a fire and write. It's important to me to be a great storyteller so I'd just lock myself up and write.

The last question is a rather silly one. Could you describe yourself in 5 words?

Oh my god! Why are you doing this to me! *laughs* Okay, let me think, I want to give you my absolute best. *Pauses* okay, so this is going to sound a bit arrogant, but it's what Veronica tells me. Great, at, kissing, girls, onstage *laughs*.

Our time was up and it was time to say goodbye, there were already two journalists waiting and they even brought a camera! But we didn't leave before giving Emilie a big hug and she even said she hoped to see us again and we do the same!



J-MUSIC CORNER

Japanese music reviews and interviews.

Reviews by Hilde Heyvaert and Malou Rottiers.



BUCK-TICK THE DAY IN QUESTION 2011 Concert DVD Release date: May 23 2012

Last year, on December 29th to be exact, *BUCK-TICK* performed their last gig of that year, a *DAY IN QUESTION* (or *DIQ* for short) one (something they've been doing for a couple of years now I believe). It was the first ever live stream concert that the band has performed in their near 25 years of existence and it was aired via *nico nico live stream*. It is that exact concert that is soon available on DVD.

Now first of all, let me admit that I've not seen the DVD yet, but I was one of the many thousand fans that watched the live stream (and after that the live was on youtube for a while so I've seen this a good many of times) so I do know what I'm talking about.

As far as live performances go, this is a terrific one. The band sounded awesome, *Imai's* wardrobe wasn't that eye bleeding (although somewhere in Japan a granny is missing some of her clothes, curtains and quite probably a bedspread too) and *Atsushi Sakurai* displayed his _entire_ vocal range. Several times. Flawlessly. As everyone who is familiar with this band knows, the lead singer of *B-T* has one of the most impressive voices in the international music business and he proves this over and over during this concert.

As is the case with many Japanese releases this comes in regular edition, which is just the concert, without the encores (6 songs) or funky bonuses. And then a limited edition release which costs nearly twice as much as the other one, with the added encores and CD version of the concert, which I suppose makes it worthwhile at least considering shelling out the extra cash for. If you don't want it on CD, frankly I wouldn't bother paying extra for it, even without the encores this is an epic gig.



BUCK-TICK Elise no Tame ni Single Release date: May 23 2012

Even though the single hasn't been released yet, several thousands fans watched the preview on *nico nico live stream* on April 14th. So if anyone wonders just why I've heard it about a month ahead of release schedule: that's your answer right there.

Ever since the announcement came that *B-T's* new single would be titled "*Elise no Tame ni*" (For Elise) there was speculation on whether or not it would have a tie-in with the classic "*Für Elise*" by *Beethoven*.

Let me assure you, it has nothing to do with Beethoven or any other classic composer. This is a typical *B-T* classic in the making: just the right amount of electronics combined with powerful hard rock, forming the particular brand of straight rock that *B-T* has become known for with their previous two albums, *Memento Mori* and *RAZZLE-DAZZLE*. If this single is anything to judge by, they'll continue on the path they started down with those works.

As ever *Acchan Sakurai's* voice is fantastic and perfect in combination with the music, making for a good fine hard rock song.

I wouldn't go quite as far as saying that the band has reinvented themselves with this, because they haven't, but they did produce yet another great song that will easily hold up its own against many of their other classic harder songs.



J On Fire Album Release date: March 21 2012 (out now)

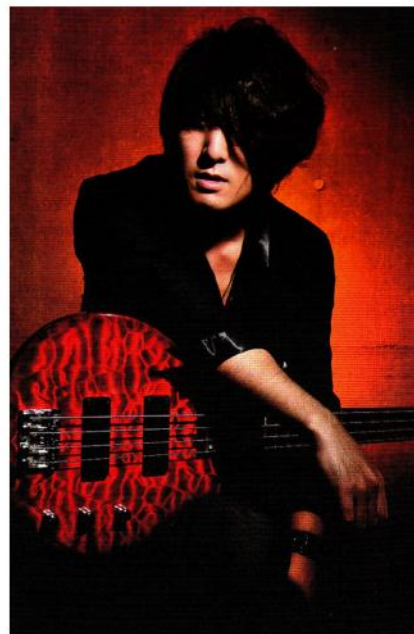
After nearly 4 years *Jun "J" Onose* (also known as the bassist of semi-legendary J-rock band *LUNA SEA*) has released a new album, *On Fire*, as his self-titled solo project *J*.

As expected from the single and PV (music video) "*Here we Go*" and previews of other songs on his radio show *Mozaiku Night* on *BayFM*, this is more J like we know him: no nonsense punk-rock and hard rock. In the past he has written several grunge songs, but he's forgone that genre on *On Fire*.

J's style has evolved with the years, so whilst he goes on in the same genre, the songs keep on getting better and better. The same goes for his voice, which has become a lot clearer and stronger on this album compared to his older work. It's slightly less raspy and raw, which I personally think is a bit of a shame, but he compensates this by proving he indeed has a vocal range that goes beyond half shouting and half singing like he's done so many times in the past. And he really _can_ sing very well indeed. Not that he still needed to prove that mind you.

On Fire has become a fine collection of excellent loud, often fast paced and melodic rock songs with the complex and clever arrangements that we've come to know *J* for best. Songs like "*Baby, Baby*"; a partly acoustic ballad, or the slightly slower "*Who Is*" provide a perfect break from the rest of the songs without diminishing the coherency of the album.

Definitely a recommendation within the genre.





L'Arc~en~Ciel

"Butterfly"

Album

Out now

Let me start by saying that this is an album that needed more than one listen before I felt I could appreciate it at least slightly (and yes I did listen to it several times before I wrote this review). So listen to it more than once before you make up your own mind if you don't like or love it straight away as some song take time to grow on you. And even then the majority still hasn't grown on me.

Of course some songs, such as "Shade of Season" won me over immediately, but as a whole I wasn't too keen on many of the musical and vocal exploits of the band on this particular album. I did like bits and pieces such as the main body of "XXX" which is a little more electro rock genre wise, bordering on synth pop at times. It made a nice change to some of the songs that made me feel like someone rammed an ice pick through my brain.

Whilst Hyde undisputable does have a great voice, I think that he overestimates his range from time to time. Composition wise they are indisputably very skilled, I just don't always like what they're up to, although at times they come up with some ingenious things such as the trumpets on "GOOD LUCK MY WAY - BUTTERFLY".

The general flow of the album is highly melodious rock with a few exceptions, but sadly it doesn't always work out as well, resulting in a mediocre example of J-rock.



LUNA SEA

"THE ONE - Crash to Create"

Single

Release date: March 21 2012

(out now)

When LUNA SEA announced that they, after not releasing new material for nearly 12 years, were releasing a new single there was naturally quite some commotion amongst the fans. When they topped that initial announcement by adding that it would be a whopping 22 minutes long, people were naturally quite impressed and excitement rose with quite a few fans.

I have to say that I really like the new single. It is the kind of tour de force that not only proves that LUNA SEA still "has it" so to speak, and is still in touch with the kind of song writing they are best known for, but it also shows they have musically grown as a band since their reformation after hiatus in 2007. The composition is more mature and obviously more complicated than what we're used of them and it clearly has all the individual styles of all the band members to it, without losing track of the band's typical sound that they are best known for.

I would even go as far as recommend this to people getting into LUNA SEA for the first time, as it shows all their growth, individual styles and band sound so well. It's one hell of an introduc-

tion to the things they've done, and hopefully a forerunner of a full cd to come. I sure hope they'll be releasing one.



SPYAIR

"My World"

Single

Out now

Fans of SPYAIR will probably rejoice knowing that "My World", their latest three song single, continues well along

the lines of their previous full album "Rockin' the World". Both "My World" and the B-side "come on" are songs bearing that typical sound that SPYAIR is known for, and they'll probably really appreciate it.

The single's last B-side, the acoustic version of "BEAUTIFUL DAYS", a song originally featured on "Rockin' the World" is a nice touch and proves the band can do more than play rock and power pop songs. And, lo and behold, they do it well. I especially like the vocals, but the arrangements are definitely just as fine.

As always this band is all about energetic songs that leave you feeling good about their music, sure ok, there's tons of bands like that out there, but the vocals of lead singer IKE set them apart from their counterparts, creating a sound that a lot of other young Japanese bands try to copy.



YELLOW FRIED CHICKENZ

YELLOW FRIED CHICKENZ1

Album

Out now

The new cd of YELLOW FRIED CHICKENZ (YFC) has been released! Every fangirl is screaming in their inner self,

that includes me of course. After waiting for quite a while after the 1st cd came out, it's finally here. With the new voice of Jon and the trusted voice of Gackt it's a feast. It is a wonderful cd full of typical music of Gackt and the crew.

With some lovely intro's and partly English lyrics so the not only the Japanese can sing along with these songs. In my opinion this is a must have for everyone who adores Japanese music.

Personal favourite:

"Mind forest" a soft melody opens the song. I love how the song has a story behind it. Much of the current music loses that and I love finding songs with meaning.

Personal downer:

"Not Alone" is somewhat too audio tuned to my liking. Though the song is quite relaxing the voices are not a good combination.



Interview with Strange Artifact

Japanese steampunk band **Strange Artifact** have been around for a couple of years now, but have only recently (April 4th to be exact) released their first CD (see the review on the next page of this issue). In light of this event we spoke to them about steampunk in Japan, fashion and other things of interest.



Even though you have been around for a couple of years already, you are a new band to a lot of people, especially outside of Japan. So why not give a quick introduction about yourselves so people that read this interview get to know the members of Strange Artifact a little better?

Strange Artifact is a Tokyo, Japan-based steampunk band unit consisting of **MaRy** (vocals, lyrics, chorus) and **130JET** (composition, arrangement, bass, guitar, design).

How do you hope to influence the Steampunk scene and music scene in general with your music?

We want to create music with a fantastical element that doesn't have the usual Victorian ste-



MaRy and 130JET performing live.

reotype, and maybe even a little like video game music. I could say the same about our lyrics. Instead of writing about everyday things, I'd rather write more abstractly to create that fantastical environment. Emotionally I want to draw a picture of both the fragility that the average person can't show anyone, as well as the strength they have inside to fight that fragility. We'd like for that to come across in our work.

What is it that attracts you in Steampunk and how does it reflect in your music?

Right now, music and fashion are really separated as movements. Well-known musicians only wear whatever's in style. At one point, grunge and punk music were closely intertwined with fashion, and you can see a lot of that in steampunk as well.

What aspect of Steampunk attracts you the most?

That would be the sense of adventure that we had as kids... kind of like the worlds you see in Final Fantasy games. The thirst for the unknown, gadgets that inspire the imagination, the fashion... it's all really appealing.

You dress Steampunk, do people get what you're doing or do you generally get lobbed in with visual-kei artists and bands?

We tend to be grouped with the Gothic underground scene. But to someone who isn't familiar with the Underground scene or Visual-Kei, they probably consider us to be more VK.

How big would you say Steampunk is in Japan?

While there's plenty of steampunk influences and design there isn't much of a scene like in America/Europe, but it feels like things are starting to come together in 2012! In early April we gathered around 40 Japanese and International steampunks for a picnic, and there's club events starting up as well. We've learned a lot from our international brethren and hope to use their examples in building our own scene.

Do you think that J-fashion styles such as *mori-kei*, *dolly-kei* and some of the Lolita substyles contribute to the growth of the Japanese Steampunk style?

That's a great question! Right now in Japan we're starting to see "steampunk lolita," which is a combination of goth-lolita and steampunk. I think that as people involved in the goth-loli scene contribute their tastes and styles, the steampunk scene is going to become even more interesting.

How would you describe your sound and what sets you apart from other J-rock bands, the Steampunk aspect excluded of course.

In addition to the storytelling element and the introduction of ethnic music styles, we're also a bit more gothic than J-Rock bands.

What inspires you the most? Both as artists and Steampunks?

To be able to do interviews like this, and for our music to travel from Japan to around the world and for people to listen to it is really inspiring to us.



Group shot of the Strange Artifact Cherry Blossom meet in Tokyo.

Album review

"Antikythera Mechanism"

by Strange Artifact

"Antikythera Mechanism", the long awaited first album of Japan's first steampunk band *Strange Artifact* does not disappoint. It's an 11 song collection of excellent rock songs with musical twist and turns that easily set them apart from other J-rock bands, in a positive way.

MaRy's unconventional, melodic voice is a perfect addition to 130JET's compositions. I would go as far as stating that the small imperfections of her voice in some of the songs only add to the charm of the band's sound. In a lot of bands they would bother me but with Strange Artifact it somehow works.

The music isn't easy to label or clearly define but I can assure you that it isn't traditional J-rock. There's some hard rock, straight rock, Gothic, EMB, and some clear avant-garde in there, mixing it up into a refreshing and original sound. It's all the more impressive you realise that this band is essentially a two person collective.

I also especially like the diversity of the album, it's still a coherent package, but the line-up of the songs makes it interesting to listen to. The different tempos of the songs are mixed together well, making for an album you can gladly listen to over and over again without it getting boring. It's also a good showcasing of the band's capacities as composers and their musical range.

Definitely a band to keep an eye on, because if this album is anything to go by, they'll be doing awesome things in the future and they could be going very far indeed.

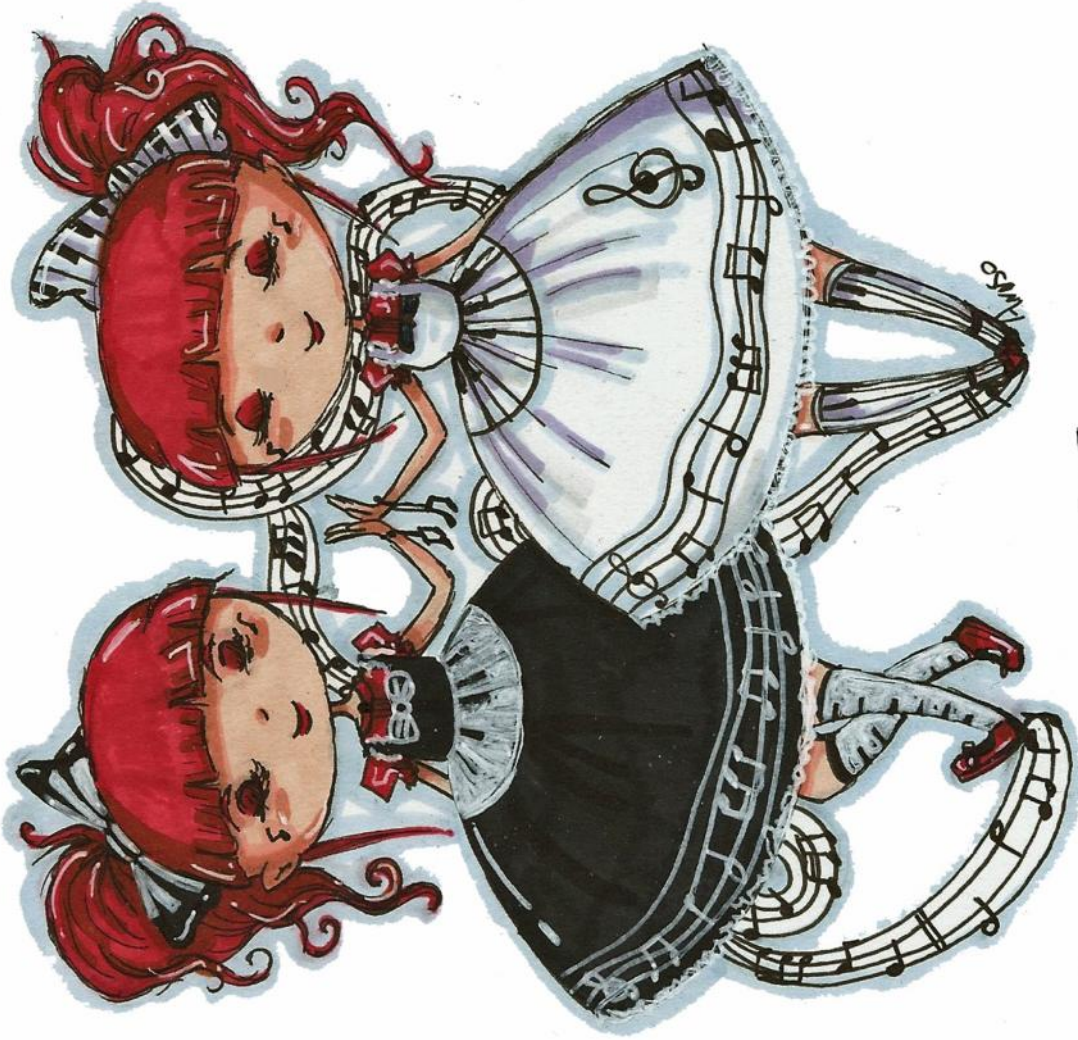


Album cover by Jun Kawamura

Interview and album review
by Hilde Heyvaert.

Photography by Toshio Iwashita
(band photo) and Dan Orlowitz.
With thanks to Dan Orlowitz.

Official site: www.strangeartifact.jp
Bandcamp album page:
<http://strangeartifact.bandcamp.com>



Wishing you a

HAPPY LOLITA DAY

Supcake Snap!



Valerie



Saltje



Liesa



Hilde



Marjan & Agnes



Josine

Recipe: Microwave cake - cake in a mug!

By Lora-Elly Vannieuwenhuysen

Ever thought of baking cake in the microwave? It's superfast and perfect for a late-night snack or a last minute addition to a tea party. The amounts in this recipe are perfect for making this cake in a coffee mug. Multiply the ingredients for bigger containers. Any container suitable for the microwave will do! A small warning though: it's a delicious yet hard to resist calorie-bomb once you know how fast and easy it is.

For one mug of chocolate cake, you will need:

- 1 large coffee mug
- 4 tablespoons of flour
- 4 tablespoons of sugar
- 2-4 tablespoons of baking cocoa, depending on taste
- 1 egg
- 3 tablespoons of oil
- 3 tablespoons of milk

Oil your mug. Put your flour, sugar and cocoa in the mug and mix it.

Pour in the milk, egg and oil and mix again until you get a nice, consistent batter.

Put your mug in the microwave and cook it for about 3 minutes.

Your cake should be a sponge-like texture.

If your cake is still a bit soggy, put it in the microwave for another minute.



Variations:

-Replace the milk and oil with 4 tablespoons of yoghurt to counter the sweetness and reduce the amount of fat.

-Add chocolate chips.

-Give your chocolate cake something special by adding chili or ginger.

-If you're on a special diet or have allergies, you can replace the milk by soy milk and the sugar by stevia. When using stevia, you'll only need 1 tablespoon instead of 4.

-You can make this cake savory by omitting the sugar and adding herbs or cheese and the like.

You can spark up the taste with a little olive oil. It's perfect for lunch!

SUBMISSION RULES

1. Commitment.

When you agree to do something for the magazine, please commit and actually DO it. There's nothing as annoying as people that agree to do something and then don't. Especially right before deadline. Yes people can become ill and life may get in the middle, but the deadline is announced well beforehand and there's really no need to wait 'till the very last moment to submit an article. Generally there is a lot of time for people to submit their pieces. I edit something as soon as I get all the pieces, just to make sure that I can get everything done in time and health and life can only provide minimal disturbance.

If someone doesn't submit to an edition without a valid reason or explanation, I reserve the right to set an earlier deadline for the person that hasn't submitted before whilst they committed, to make sure that we get the article in the next magazine they wish to cooperate on. I'm not doing this to hurt feelings or step on toes, but I don't want to give people the opportunity to hijack the magazine (with or without malicious intent). That sounds harsh, I agree, but in my personal experience some people systematically volunteer and never deliver, thus excluding others from the opportunity to submit and keeping the magazine from getting said piece in. It's exactly that I'm trying to avoid by putting rules like these in place.

Being chief editor isn't just all the fun and good times, it is a lot of hard work and sometimes I will have to make harsh decisions and this is one of them. I'm sorry if this upsets someone, that's not my intention, I'm trying to do right by the magazine and especially the people that genuinely want to contribute.

2. Deadlines

Stick to the deadline. They are announced well in time. You can not only find it right here, but also on the very last page of the magazine. It's easy to find the deadline when you forget when it is.

The deadline for issue 6 is **Thursday, June 28**.

Submissions not in my inbox when I turn on my computer the morning of the 29th of June will not appear in the magazine. Plain and simple as that. Respect the deadline people!

The reason behind this is simple: not only does everyone have ample time to meet the deadline; from experience I know that extending it means that the magazine is likely never to happen.

Also: editing takes a lot of work, so if I want to release in a timely manner after the deadline I can't wait for articles 'till Hell freezes over.

3. Submitting

All entries for the magazine must be submitted by email on hildekitten@gmail.com

That is also the address where you can reach me with questions, remarks etc etc etc.

If you have an idea for the next edition, don't hesitate to let me know!

Do not send me forum PMs, I don't do pm and your message won't be answered, but I do answer my email so you can reach me on there without problems.

When you submit artwork or photos, they must be at least 2000 pixels and jpg files.

(e.g. a photo of 1333 x 2000 or 1500 x 2000 works fine, everything larger too, everything smaller may become problematic at final edit). Files that are too small are no use to me so please take that into account.

Also, be mindful of quality, I cannot stress this enough!

ONLY submit pieces you have the right to submit. If someone complains about copyright infringement over a piece you've submitted I will send these people to you. This is YOUR responsibility and you will be held accountable in an infringement case.

As far as the **spelling** is concerned, we do NOT allow text speech, texts written like you speak or things filled with purposefully bad spelling. Everyone makes mistakes and that's not an issue, hopefully those mistakes will be caught during the proofreading (not everything gets caught though; we're all only human after all).

That aside, everyone can operate a spell check I'm sure, please do that before submitting an article. It gets rid of the more obvious mistakes and makes life easier for proofreaders and editor alike. It's just a matter of common courtesy.

About **photography and art**: I am aware that not everyone is equally talented. It is in no way so that one needs to have some kind of art degree to be allowed to submit to the magazine. We may not expect a degree, but we do, however, expect a certain quality. It doesn't matter that you don't have professional materials, just do your very best to submit things that are presentable.

Next issue:

Next issue (number 7) will be the spanning the months July and August 2012.

Meet report: May
Event report: Antwerp Convention
Meet report: June

Cupcake Focus: Claire
Style Spotlight: Sailor Lolita

Interview with Camille and Margot of *Camille et Margot*

Convention focus: Steampunk and Gaslight convention + and interview with Marcus Rauchfuss

Our J-music corner with reviews and interviews

- Interview with Japanese punk-rock band *Trill-Dan*
- And if Louie finds time within their busy recording schedule: an interview with *Rose Noire* too!

The devil wears frills too...

Recipes
Artwork

Cupcake Snap

